

**Beyonce sings at A-list Indian event**

Beyonce has performed as part of the lavish festivities at the latest extravagant Indian celebrity wedding. Isha Ambani, the daughter of India's richest man, is tying the knot with Anand Piramal, son of another Indian billionaire, this week. **P13**

**Iran's terrorist proxies a regional time bomb**

**Women poll success hailed**  
 Manama

Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of His Majesty the King and President of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) lauded the success of the parliamentary and municipal elections, praising the outstanding participation of Bahraini women as voters and candidates.



HRH Princess Sabeeka

She pointed out that six women won seats in the Representatives Council and four in the municipal councils, which asserts maturity of the Bahraini society and belief in women's ability to assume responsibilities side by side with men.

HRH Princess Sabeeka was speaking as she chaired the third meeting of SCW sixth session. **See Page 4**

**Brexit in turmoil**  
 London

British Prime Minister Theresa May yesterday postponed Parliament's vote on her Brexit divorce deal with the European Union, acknowledging that lawmakers would have rejected it by a "significant margin."

The move averted a humiliating defeat for the government in a vote that had been scheduled for Tuesday.

But it throws Britain's Brexit plans into disarray, with the country's departure from the EU just over three months away on March 29.



**03** Violator warned over putting caged monkey on display at farmers market

**04** Bahraini women's poll success hailed

**05** Art carnival to raise funds for expat workers' welfare

# The mission begins

Welfare schemes stressed as newly-formed Cabinet holds first meeting



HRH the Premier and HRH the Crown Prince with other members of the Cabinet during a photocall before the beginning of the first session.

Manama

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa chaired the Cabinet session, attended by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier, at the Gudaibiya Palace yesterday.

The meeting is the first to be held by the new Cabinet which was formed as per Royal Decree 61/2018.

HRH the Prime Minister delivered a statement in which he extended thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa on his precious trust, affirming that the new Cabinet will do its

utmost to implement the King's visions and achieve the citizens' aspirations.

HRH Premier expressed sincere congratulations to the newly-appointed cabinet members, and welcomed the new members. He also thanked the outgoing members for the tremendous efforts they had exerted.

HRH the Prime Minister pointed out that the first Government Action Plan (GAP) of the new cabinet will focus on achieving fiscal balance and economic stability, in addition to ensuring sustainable services and enhancing their quality, a post-session statement by the Cabinet Secretary-General, Dr Yasser Al Nasser said.

The Cabinet extended deepest congratulations to HM the King, HRH Premier and HRH

**40**  
 parliament members were elected by the citizens in the elections held last week.

the Crown Prince, as well as to the Bahraini people on the kingdom's national celebrations on 16 and 17 December marking the anniversary of the establishment of the modern state of Bahrain as an Arab and Muslim country in 1783 by its founder Ahmed Al Fateh, the 47th Anniversary of its accession to the UN as a full member and the 19th Anniversa-

ry of HM the King's Accession to the Throne.

The session recalled with pride Bahrain's innumerable achievements, distinguished regional and international status and leading role in various fields during HM King Hamad's prosperous era, wishing the kingdom's leadership and people ever-lasting security, stability and prosperity.

The session paid tribute to the kingdom's late servicemen, marking the Commemoration Day, which is observed on December 17 every year.

The session recalled with pride and appreciation the sacrifices made by the late servicemen who lost their lives while defending their country and protecting their Nation in the battlefields of honour, stressing

that they had set themselves as role models for sacrifice and dedication, and will always remain a source of pride.

The Prime Minister lauded the success of the 39th Summit of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), in which HM King Hamad participated, and which was presided over by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

HRH the Prime Minister congratulated the newly-elected members of the Representatives Council for winning the confidence of the people of Bahrain, and the Shura Council members on the Royal trust bestowed upon them, wishing the Legislative Branch every success in carrying out their legislative and supervisory role.

BIG RESPITE

*Smiles on little faces as MoE bans homework for students*

● The ministerial decision was taken upon the recommendation of the specialised commissions after lengthy discussions over the previous months.

Manama

Education Minister Dr Majid Al Nuaimi has issued a decision approving the recommendation of the ministry's development commissions to ban homework for students and make school assignments an integral and inseparable part of class activities.

Student home assignments will be rescinded and replaced by daily hands-on exercises implemented under teachers' supervision inside the classroom before the end of each lesson in order to consolidate knowledge and hone skills as well as answer the queries of students, the ministry said yesterday.

The ministerial decision was taken upon the recommendation of the specialised commissions after lengthy discussions over the previous months.



This decision is effective from the beginning of the second semester 2018-2019.

This innovative approach is compatible with the ministry's efforts to develop academic curricula to suit the requirements of the twenty-first century and to instil the requisite skills, as part of the Ministry of Education (MoE)'s efforts to revise its plans and programmes according to international standards of teaching the basic subjects of mathematics, science and languages.

Both teachers and parents welcomed the move. Speaking to Tribune, a private school teacher on condition of anonymity said students were of-

ten pressured from the amounts of homework they were being given.

"I strongly suspect that when teachers face conditions such as pressure to meet arbitrary achievement goals, lack of planning time or little autonomy over curriculum, homework becomes an easy option to make up what could not be covered in class," he said.

Speaking to Tribune, Ramshankar Maheswaran, a father of Class Six student said it was a best directive that is going to make a huge difference in the lives of children.

"Students are leading a life of machines. This should end and I welcome the move," he said.

**Missing expat found dead**

TDT | Manama  
 Mohammed Zafran

A resident who went missing on Sunday was found dead yesterday.

Satheesh Kumar, the Indian national was found dead inside his car in Hidd.

He was reported by his friends and relatives as missing since 8:30 am on Sunday after he left his apartment.

According to his friends and relatives, he had headed to work, however, he never reached his place of work.

"He left his apartment to go to work and we became concerned when he never reached the office.

"We tried calling him but he did not answer and this was when we realised something was not right.

"We began a search mission on social media networks and alerted the police," his cousin told Tribune.

The cousin said that Kumar had a history of serious medical conditions.

"His health was something we were all concerned about. Last year he had a stroke and so when he went missing we were worried if he had suffered another one."

The car was found in a parking lot in Hidd Industrial Area.



The parked car in which Kumar's body was found in Hidd.



Mr Kumar

"The place is surrounded by policemen and we are not allowed to the area as investigations are going on," one of the friends of the deceased, said.

"At this point, we do not know what exactly happened," the friend added.

Kumar, 56, had been a resident of Bahrain for the past 30 years. He was employed as a salesman. Sources said he was planning to visit his hometown this week.



His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday received at Gudaibiya Palace His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier. They reviewed national issues and the requirements of the next phase after the appointment of the new Cabinet. HRH the Prime Minister and HRH the Crown Prince asserted that the government will work on bringing about further achievements despite all challenges. They affirmed that the new government team is capable of attaining forecast goals to promote sustainable development and boost citizens' welfare.

Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of His Majesty the King and President of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW), received yesterday SCW member and Batelco Group Deputy Chief Executive Mouna Al Hashemi on the occasion of granting her the Business Excellence Award 2018. The honour was bestowed during the Asian Business Leadership Forum (ABLF 2018) which was held in the UAE in October. HRH Princess Sabeeka described the honour as a recognition of the Bahraini women's capabilities in the field of leadership, innovation and strategic planning. She added that the highly prestigious award is the dividend of the care and support given to Bahraini women under the reform project of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.



# A rare honour

**Kingdom gets another CBSE Secondary School**

TDT | Manama

## Interior Minister receives Personality of the Year Award 2018

Manama

The Kingdom's Interior Minister was honoured with a unique award by the US-based Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE International).

This came as Interior Minister Lt-General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa yesterday received Bahrain Ambassador to the United States, Shaikh Abdulla bin Rashid Al Khalifa.

Capital Governor and Head of the committee of Maan "Together" programme against violence and addiction, Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, also attended.

The Interior Minister received the Personality of the Year Award 2018 in appreciation of the success of the Maan Programme and the progress



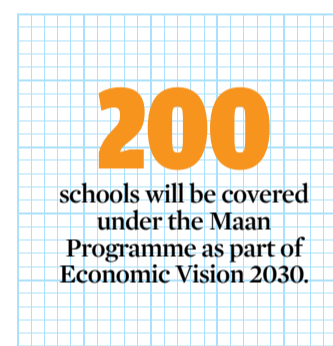
Lt-General Shaikh Rashid receives the award from Shaikh Abdulla.

the Interior Ministry made compared with other organisations accredited by the organisation.

He expressed gratitude to the prestigious award that reflected appreciation of the professional-

ism and excellence of the work team of Maan.

He extended thanks to all those working in the programme, including supervisors, trainers and sponsors for their



essential role in the success of the programme.

He also expressed thanks to Bahrain's Ambassador to the US, who founded the programme in 2011 and managed it for six years, including setting plans, work mechanisms and programmes to achieve its goals.

To further develop the programme to meet the sustainable development goals of the Eco-

conomic Vision 2030, the Interior Minister directed to increase the number of trainers from the Community Police to increase the number of schools covered by the programme to 200, in order to increase the number of students to around 222,000 to promote community partnership.

He said that Maan Programme is a national project that has been successful since its inception.

Bahrain's Ambassador congratulated the Interior Minister, highlighting the achievements of the Maan programme were part of the wise directives and endless support of the Interior Minister.

He expressed appreciation to the programme members for their dedication to protecting the youth from risks.

Bahrain Indian School added another feather in the cap as the school got accredited for the secondary level education by the Central Board of Secondary School (CBSE).

The BIS team feels proud to announce the accreditation and is elated to welcome the students, the school said in a press release issued.

"BIS believes in providing each of our students a plethora of opportunities so that each one develops into a competent individual with a well-rounded personality ready to face the challenges of the world.

"At the same time it cannot be ignored that values and ethos form the very base of an individual's character which we emphasise on and therefore we wish to instil within our students good virtues of discipline, dedication, compassion, perseverance, optimism and endurance without which goodness cannot be acquired completely.

"In order to expand our family, BIS opens the doors for admissions from Pre- KG to Grade IX for the next academic year starting April 2019.

"The admission forms are available online along with the detailed admission procedures."

## Annual Sports Day



About 400 kindergarten students took part in the 14th Annual Kindergarten Sports Day held at Al Noor International School. In attendance were School Director Dr Muhammad Mashood, Principal Amin Mohammed Hulaiwah as well as other school officials and staff.

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## Christmas carol



A special carol visit to LuLu Hypermarket was organised by the Kerala Catholic Association (KCA) Christmas Carol Team. A Christmas carol is a song, whose lyrics are on the theme of Christmas, and which is traditionally sung on Christmas itself or during the surrounding season.

# Violator warned over putting caged monkey on display at farmers market

● Mr Faraj added that the market's manager had ordered for its removal when it was discovered during an inspection.

● The farmers market got off to a strong start on Saturday as thousands of people visited the market which opened its seventh edition.

TDT | Manama  
Mohammed Zafran

Rules violator who put up a monkey on display at the farmers market in Budaiya has been warned, it emerged.

Those responsible for the action has been warned over exhibiting cruelty towards animals and asked not to repeat the offence, according to sources.

The Chairman of BSPCA, Mahmoud Faraj, told Tribune that the society received a complaint from the public regarding the monkey's presence at the farmers market and subsequently enquired with Bahraini au-



Caged monkey brought disgrace to the farmers market.

thorities about the incident.

According to him, the Agriculture Directorate and other authorities behind the farmers market were initially unaware about the monkey on display at

the market.

Mr Faraj added that the market's manager had ordered for its removal when it was discovered during an inspection.

Mr Faraj said that the presence



Over 18,000 have visited the farmers market, making it a big success.

of the monkey was a violation of law and that owning such monkeys requires an official permit.

He added that the BSPCA will visit the market next week to keep a check.

He added that he met the Director of the Department of Animal Health and Control, Dr Ibrahim Yousef on Sunday to discuss the matter.

He explained that he was given assurances that the organisers will take stricter measures to avoid such an incident from repeating.

The farmers market got off to a strong start on Saturday as thousands of people visited the market which opened its seventh

## 40

farmers are taking part in the market this year, showcasing their agricultural produce.

Botanical Garden.

The market, which is organised by the National Initiative for Agricultural Development in the co-operation with the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture and Urban Planning, was established to promote Bahrain's homegrown Agricultural produce and to support local farmers.

More than 40 farmers are participating in the market this year. Apart from the agricultural produce, it also features a section for traditional crafts, restaurants, and entertainment activities for children. The market will be held every Saturday from 8:00 am to 2:00pm until April 27th.

edition.

The five months long market provides a platform for local farmers to sell their fresh produce to the public.

The market is set up at the Agriculture Centre in Budaiya



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# Bahraini women's poll success hailed

HRH Princess Sabeeka said the success reflects the faith of Bahraini society in women



HRH Princess Sabeeka chairs the meeting in the presence of Ms Al Ansari.

Manama

Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of His Majesty the King and President of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) lauded anew success of the parliamentary and municipal elections, praising the outstanding participation of Bahraini women as voters and candidates.

She pointed out that six women won seats in the Representatives Council and four in the municipal councils, which asserts maturity of the Bahraini society and belief in women's ability to assume responsibilities side by side with men.

She added that the rate of

Bahraini women's presence in the legislative branch has gone up to 19 per cent.

HRH Princess Sabeeka was speaking as she chaired the third meeting of SCW sixth session. The council endorsed the theme of Bahraini Women's Day 2019 which will be allocated to celebrate "Bahraini Women in the Higher Education Field and Future Sciences".

She hailed the council's local, regional and international achievements in 2018, expressing keenness on bringing about further accomplishments in 2019 in order to realise the aspirations of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

SCW Secretary General Hala Al Ansari said the council spotlighted in its meeting today women-related issues, in-



cluding activities marking the Bahraini Women's Day 2018, procedures taken regarding women's political participation programme "electoral preparation 2018", following up on the implementation of the national strategy to protect women against family violence, the next strategic plan and its correlation with the government's work programmes 2019-2022. The council's Secretari-

at-General was tasked to take the necessary executive procedures to carry out the national empowerment plan and follow up on its inclusion in the next government work plan.

The Supreme Council for Women approved a proposal to rename Princess Sabeeka Women Empowerment Award and create new categories in it. It also approved a draft national report on gender balance (2016-2017) in preparation for its referral to the Cabinet.

It also approved the general framework proposal of the national family services and awareness programme which aims to boost integration between the relevant parties to upgrade programmes and services provided for Bahraini families and benchmark their positive effect.

## Researcher seeks private-public partnership to boost innovation

TDT | Manama  
Harpreet Kaur

A leading researcher has highlighted the need to boost private-public partnership to boost innovation, which in turn help the economy flourish.

Engineer Marjan Modara, who is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Knowledge and Innovation Management at the Bangkok University, made these remarks while making a presentation at the FinTech Bay.

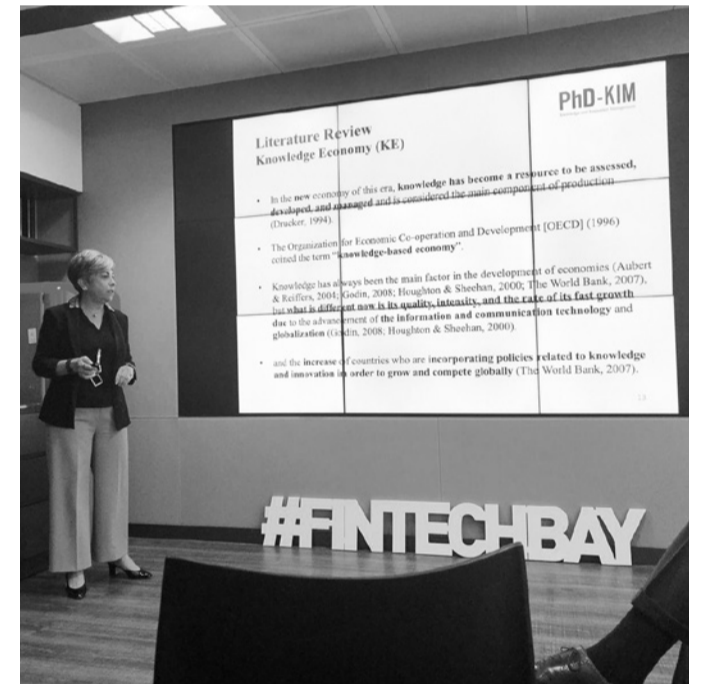
A speaker and mentor to the younger generation, Ms Marjan said innovation requires the right environment, which should be provided by the public and private sectors.

"My research examines the elements that could contribute towards the development of a knowledge economy. As suggested by the World Bank and various OECD reports, the

pillars to form the knowledge economy are education and training, innovation and technological adoption, the information and communication infrastructure, and a conducive economic incentive and institutional regime."

"Although many initiatives and steps have been taken by the government to foster the production of the innovation activities and processes in Bahrain, it was perceived that those initiatives produced single projects with no systematic procedures or a holistic strategy in place to embody the innovation progression.

"Recommendations were proposed on how the government and public entities could collaborate by putting these recommendations in the core of each organisation's day-to-day business with the aim of serving Bahrain's Vision 2030," Ms Marjan added.



Ms Marjan makes the presentation at the FinTech Bay.

## IDC Forum Roadshow set

TDT | Manama

Bahrain is set to host the fourth annual IDC Forum Roadshow today at Gulf Hotel, under the theme of 'Digital Transformation: Strategies for Automation, Innovation and Intelligence'.

This year the event is being organised for the first time in partnership with The Artificial Intelligence Society and nice of its members will contribute as keynote speakers.

Dr Jassim Haji, President of Artificial Intelligence Society, stated that IDC is an important and major global research and consultancy services firm, which can contribute to evolution of technology in the kingdom. The forum will focus on Digital Transformation strategies, Artificial Intelligence and machine learning plus security threats in the Digital Transformation journey.

It is expected that over 100 delegates from different technology sectors in the kingdom to attend this important regional forum.

## Sneha Annual Day



India Ladies Association hosted Sneha Annual Day at Crowne Plaza Bahrain. The event featured a welcome song, skit and a dance fusion performed by the Sneha children. Sneha Recreation Centre for Children with Special Needs is a 31-year-old centre established in December 1987 by the Indian Ladies Association of Bahrain, with the aim of providing the children, a congenial, recreational and educational environment.

## Debate contest chance for students

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam is conducting the 'BKS-Eloquence 2018', an Intergulf Speech and Debate Competition event for school students residing in Bahrain and

other Gulf Countries.

The event is organised in connection with the BKS Literary festival 2018, and is supported by BKS Toastmasters. The competition has attractive cash prizes and the winners will get

an opportunity to interact with invited celebrity.

Participants are divided into Junior (Class VIII to X or equivalent) and Senior (Students of Class XI and XII or equivalent) categories. Both the categories

can participate in Leadership Speech (Individual Event), Declamation Speech (Individual Event) and Debate Speech (Team Event).

Contest is scheduled on 22 December 2018 at Bahrain

Keraleeya Samajam Hall. The deadline for participant registration is extended to 18 December, 2018. For full information please e-mail to bkstoastmasters@gmail.com or contact Dr Asharani on 3549 1901.

# Art carnival to raise funds for expat workers' welfare

Over 5,000 students set to take part in 'Spectra 2018'

TDI | Manama

A record number of children will be participating in the art carnival 'Spectra 2018' organised by the Indian Community Relief Fund (ICRF) under the patronage of the Indian Embassy.

'Faber Castell Spectra 2018', the largest art competition for students in the Kingdom, will be held on Friday December 14 at the Bahrain International Exhibition Centre.

This year as many as 5,000 children from various schools in Bahrain are expected to participate in the competition after being selected in the preliminary rounds organised in their respective schools.

The event is set to begin by 7.30 am and complete by 4.30 pm. The results will be announced the same day in a finale function starting at 5.00 pm just after the drawing competition at Bahrain International Exhibition Centre. Participants are divided into



Hundreds of students took part in the event last year.

four age groups: five to eight years, eight to eleven years, eleven to fourteen years and fourteen to eighteen years.

This year an adult category competition for participants above 18 years is included.

This year around 30 schools are participating including the Indian School, which will send 1,500 students.

The winning entries and other outstanding creations by the children will figure in the Wall

Calendars and Desk-Top Calendars designed for the year 2019.

These Calendars will be launched this month at the Finale function by Indian Ambassador Alok Kumar Sinha.

Besides the ART Carnival, this

**30**  
schools in the Kingdom are expected to take part in the event.

year ICRF will also be conducting a "Tribute to Bahrain - Indian Heritage Carnival" on the same day and venue, to showcase the rich Indian culture and cuisine to the participants and the general public.

A varied programme highlighting the rich traditional dances, costumes and jewellery from the 29 states of Incredible India will be performed at the venue for the general public from 5pm - 8pm.

A specially-choreographed 15 minutes dance segment will be performed by Indian students

to pay "Tribute to Bahrain" and depict the close ties between the Kingdom and India, since the time of the Dilmun Civilisation.

The main expense of ICRF is the Family Welfare Fund which provides financial support to the families of those Indian workers who are earning less than BD 100 per month and who tragically lose their lives in the Kingdom.

After verification of documents, ICRF sends Indian rupees 100,000 (approximately BD 530) to the next of kin of the deceased worker.

This support is a financial lifeline for the extremely poor and needy families who in many cases have lost their sole bread winner.

For the smooth running of this mega event, an active organising committee has been formed headed by Rosaline Roy Charlie as General Convener, Aneesh as the Joint Convener of the event.

For further information, please contact Aruldas Thomas, Chairman - ICRF on 39863008.

## Prestigious global award for Bahraini health professional

TDI | Manama

Dr Naeema Hassan Al Gasseer, World Health Organisation representative in Sudan and public health professional, was awarded by London Arabia Organisation the Health Awareness Award, in recognition of her leadership role in standing for health development across the world.

Dr Al Gasseer received her award during the Arab Women of the Year Awards Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony, a prestigious event that showcased the capabilities of Arab women as leaders and brought together illustrious representatives of governments, businesses and civil society.

Dr Al Gasseer is the first Bahraini woman working with WHO. Dr Al Gasseer worked as representative of WHO in many countries such as Iraq and Egypt.

She was earlier senior consultant of Nursing Development Programme at WHO Headquar-



Let us call for love, peace and humanitarian work, and avoid hatred and discrimination.

DR AL GASSEER

ters in Geneva during the period (1999-2003).

"It is a great honour to get this prestigious award tonight and would like first of all to thank London Arabia Organisation for choosing me for the Health Awareness award, and appreciating the amazing achievements of Arab women in various significant fields. I dedicate this award to my mother, my family, and my late father who actually didn't discriminate between me and his eldest daughter and his son," Dr Al Gasseer said in her speech.

"Let us call for love, peace and humanitarian work, and avoid hatred and discrimination. I have been working in MENA region for 23 years and I know how it means to spread love and peace and make health development available for everyone.

"Today Bahrain is celebrating women success, and Arab region is starting to celebrate Women achievements with the support of everyone like leaders, policy makers, NGO's, civil society institutions, and the private sector," Dr Al Gasseer added.

## International Human Rights Day marked

Manama

The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) joined the world in celebration of the International Human Rights Day which is observed on December 10 every year. The celebration marks the 70th anniversary of the UN General Assembly's endorsement of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which aims to foster equality, justice and dignity regardless of ethnicity, colour, religion, race or any other. The ceremony was attended by senior officials from public institutions, non-government organisations, legal personalities, advocates of

human rights, Chairman and members of NIHR Board of Commissioners and NIHR Secretary General.

At the celebration held by NIHR in its headquarters at Seef District, NIHR President Maria Khouri welcomed the audience, stressing that the celebration emphasises Bahrain's unwavering approach in protecting human rights through national mechanisms put in place for this purpose. She pointed out tolerance and coexistence which have ever characterised the Bahraini community, describing Bahrain as the land of civilisation, peace and coexistence.

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WORLD  
world

# Nobel peace prize shines light on rape in conflict

● Mukwege, dubbed "Doctor Miracle" for his work helping victims of sexual violence

● Murad for turning her experience into powerful advocacy for her Yazidi people

● The Nobel Peace Prize includes a gold medal, diploma and nine million Swedish Krona (880,000 euros, a million dollars)

AFP | Oslo, Norway



Nobel Peace Prize laureates Congolese doctor Denis Mukwege and Yazidi activist Nadia Murad hug at the end of a press conference

Congolese doctor Denis Mukwege and Yazidi activist Nadia Murad, an IS sex slave survivor, were presented with the Nobel Peace Prize yesterday, as they challenge the

world to combat rape as a weapon of war.

Mukwege, dubbed "Doctor Miracle" for his work helping victims of sexual violence, and Murad, who has turned her ex-

perience into powerful advocacy for her Yazidi people, will receive the prize at a ceremony in Oslo.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee in October said the

prize was "for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict".

The laureates, who have dedicated their award to rape victims across the world, have said they hope the Nobel will raise awareness of sexual violence and make it harder for the world to ignore it.

"We cannot say that we didn't act because we didn't know. Now everyone knows. And I think now the international community has a responsibility to act," Mukwege told reporters at a news conference on Sunday.

The prize was not a "victory", but could be seen "as the start of a new struggle, a new struggle against this type of evil", he added.

The surgeon has spent 20 years treating the wounds and emotional trauma inflicted on women in the DR Congo's war-torn east.

"What we see during armed conflicts is that women's bod-

ies become battlefields and this cannot be acceptable," he said.

Fellow laureate Murad has become a tireless campaigner for the rights of Yazidis since surviving the horrors of captivity under the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria where they targeted her Kurdish-speaking community.

Captured in 2014, she suffered forced marriage, beatings and gang-rape before she was able to escape.

She said the Nobel was "a sign" for the thousands of women still held by jihadists.

"This prize, one prize cannot remove all the violence and all the attacks on pregnant women, on children, on women and give them justice," Murad said on Sunday.

But she said she hoped it would "open doors so that we can approach more governments", to bring the perpetrators to court and "so that we can find a solution and actually stop what is happening".

**Russia arms industry second behind US: Sipri**  
Stockholm, Sweden

Russia has overtaken Britain to become the world's second biggest arms producer behind the United States, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri) said in a report published on Monday.

"Russian companies have experienced significant growth in their arms sales since 2011," Sipri senior researcher Siemon Wezeman said in a statement.

"This is in line with Russia's increased spending on arms procurement to modernise its armed forces."

Russia had 10 companies in Sipri's list of the world's "Top 100" arms-producing and military services companies in 2017, accounting for 9.5 percent of sales. The 10 companies' sales totalled \$37.7 billion (\$33 billion euros), Sipri said.

That put Russia in second place, a position that had been held by Britain since 2002. The United States topped the list with 42 companies and sales up by two percent to \$226.6 billion -- accounting for 57 percent of the Top 100's arms sales.

**Myanmar seizes heroin haul worth \$4.7m: police**  
Yangon, Myanmar

Myanmar has seized 370 kilograms (815 pounds) of heroin worth \$4.7 million during a raid in the northeast, police said, the latest big bust in the world's second-largest opium producer after Afghanistan. Weak rule of law and conflict-riddled border areas allow industrial-size trade in heroin, pills and crystal methamphetamine -- known as ice -- to flourish, even as massive drug seizures routinely grab headlines.

## Four killed as Hong Kong schoolbus mounts pavement

Hong Kong, China

Four people were killed when an empty runaway schoolbus mounted a pavement in a crowded Hong Kong neighbourhood yesterday, trapping passers-by underneath and injuring 10, police said.

Two women -- aged 80 and 70 -- and two men -- aged 83 and 77 -- were killed after the yellow bus careered out of control in the downtown North Point district.

Photographs in local media showed victims sprawled on the ground while others received medical treatment at the scene.

The vehicle rolled down the street after it was parked, ter-



Police investigate after an empty schoolbus crashed in the North Point district of Hong Kong

rifying passers-by as the driver ran towards it and tried in vain

to stop it, according to the police. "We believe he might have forgotten to pull the hand-

brake or hadn't properly pulled it," chief inspector of police Sun Lun-yum told reporters.

The 62-year-old driver became trapped under the bus and was dragged along for about 20 metres before falling onto the road.

Police said the bus travelled for a total of 100 metres, hitting two taxis before finally crashing into a building in a narrow lane lined with shops.

In addition to the driver, who suffered injuries to his head, neck and back, a further nine pedestrians aged between 22 and 89 were taken to hospital for treatment. Several remain in a serious condition.

## Heavy screen time appears to impact childrens' brains: study

Washington, United States

Researchers have found "different patterns" in brain scans among children who record heavy smart device and video game use, according to initial data from a major ongoing US study.

The first wave of information from the \$300 million National Institute of Health (NIH) study is showing that those nine and 10-year-old kids spending more than seven hours a day using such devices show signs of premature thinning of the cortex, the brain's outermost layer that processes sensory information. "We don't know if it's be-

ing caused by the screen time. We don't know yet if it's a bad thing," said Gaya Dowling, an NIH doctor working on the project, explaining the preliminary findings in an interview with the CBS news program 60 Minutes.

"What we can say is that this is what the brains look like of kids who spend a lot of time on screens. And it's not just one pattern," Dowling said.

The NIH data reported on CBS also showed that kids who spend more than two hours a day on screens score worse on language and reasoning tests.

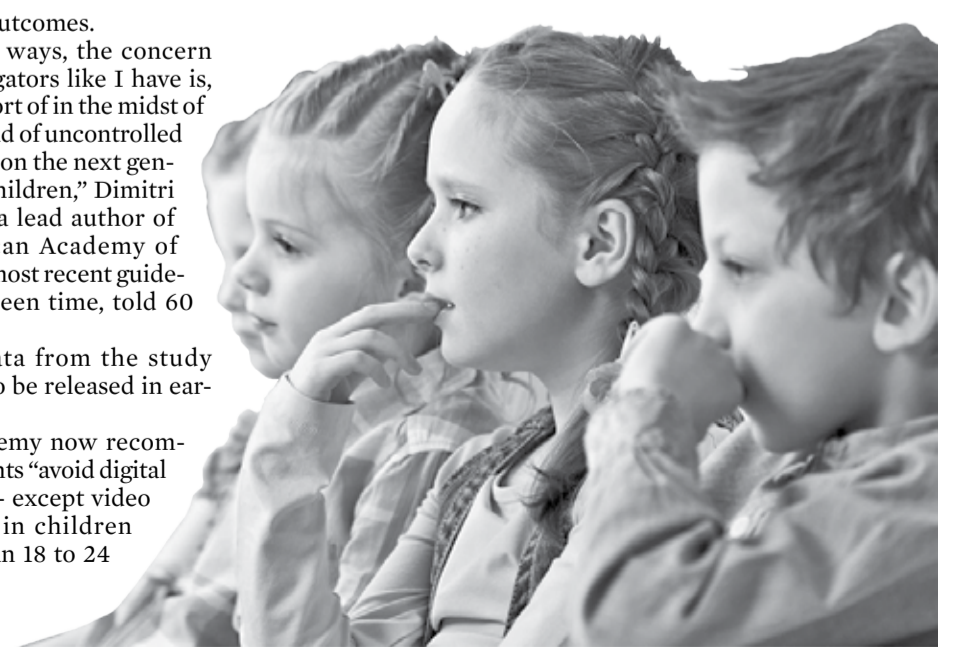
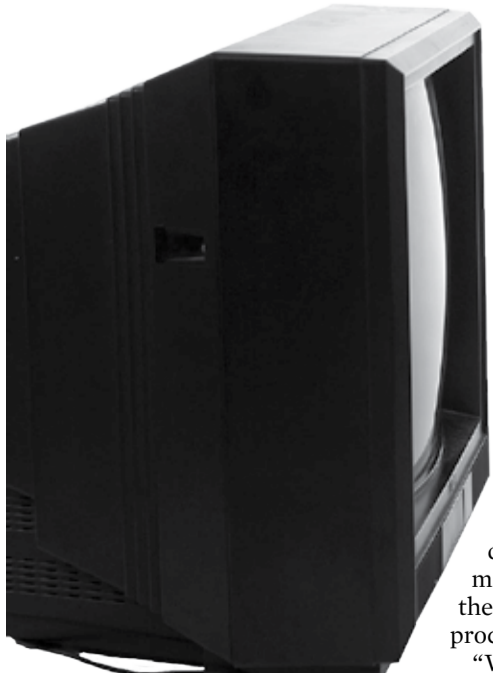
The study -- which involves scanning the brains of 4,500 children -- eventually aims to show whether screen time is addictive, but researchers need several years to understand such

long-term outcomes.

"In many ways, the concern that investigators like I have is, that we're sort of in the midst of a natural kind of uncontrolled experiment on the next generation of children," Dimitri Christakis, a lead author of the American Academy of Pediatrics' most recent guidelines on screen time, told 60 Minutes.

Initial data from the study will begin to be released in early 2019.

The academy now recommends parents "avoid digital media use -- except video chatting -- in children younger than 18 to 24 months."



# She was born without legs, but she didn't stop trying

AFP | Serjilla, Syria

**E**ight-year-old Maya Merhi had to struggle around a Syrian displaced persons camp on artificial limbs made of plastic tubing and tin cans.

But now the girl, who was born with no legs due to a congenital condition, is walking on new prosthetics after undergoing treatment in Turkey.

Pictures of her plight in Syria, were seen around the world in June, and she was taken to Istanbul for the life-changing procedure.

Dressed in a pink sweater and matching shoes, Maya on Saturday was able for the first time

to walk along the rutted roads of the Serjilla camp after arriving back.

Finally she joined in the games and dancing with the other children.

"I was so happy when I saw her walking," says her father Mohammed, sitting in their makeshift tent.

"The whole family and all our loved ones were so happy."

Mohammed suffers the same condition as his daughter, known as congenital amputation

which means the person is born without lower limbs.

He cobbled together the homemade prosthetics on which she used to shuffle around the camp.

Originally from Aleppo region, the father and daughter had to move to rebel-held Idlib province as fighting from Syria's civil war began to rage around their home.

After the pictures of Maya's difficulties sparked attention across the globe, the Turkish Red Crescent intervened.

The father and

daughter were evacuated from Syria by the Turkish authorities and brought to Istanbul for treatment at a specialised clinic.

Mohammed received prosthetic limbs as well, but admits that he isn't yet as steady on them as his daughter.

Sitting on a foam mattress, his daughter unwraps the artificial legs and attaches them.

"To begin with there were difficulties getting used to them," says her uncle Hussein, who accompanied his brother and niece to Turkey.

"All of a sudden she found herself up high on the new prosthetics."



Maya Merhi removes her artificial legs inside a tent at the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp of Serjilla



Maya Merhi (L) poses for a picture with the support of crutches next to her brother and disabled father



Maya Merhi (C) stands among her friends in the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp of Serjilla in northwestern Syria, next to Bab al-Hawa border crossing with Turkey

Syrian Maya Merhi poses for a picture in the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp of Serjilla in northwestern Syria next to Bab al-Hawa border crossing with Turkey. Eight-year-old Maya, born with no legs due to a congenital condition, had to struggle around the Syrian camp on artificial limbs made of plastic tubing and tin cans. Today, the girl can walk thanks to her new prosthetics after undergoing treatment in Turkey.

## Siberian serial killer cop convicted of more murders

AFP | Moscow, Russia

**A**Siberian policeman who raped and killed women after offering them late-night rides was found guilty of dozens more murders yesterday, making him Russia's most prolific serial killer of recent times.

A court in the city of Irkutsk found Mikhail Popkov guilty of 56 murders between 1992 and 2007, sentencing him to a second life term. He was already in prison after being convicted of killing 22 women in 2015.

Popkov offered rides to women late at night, sometimes in his police car, while off-duty around his city of Angarsk near Irkutsk.

He killed them using weapons including a hammer and an axe, then dumped their bodies in the woods, at the side of the road and in a local cemetery.

He was also found guilty of raping 10 of the women.

Popkov described himself as a "cleaner" who was purging his home city of prostitutes. All but one of his victims were women between the ages of 16 and 40.



Mikhail Popkov stands inside a defendants' cage during a court hearing in Irkutsk

His other victim was a policeman.

The grey-haired 54-year-old appeared in court in prison uniform, his head bowed, Russian television showed. He will be

sent to a prison that is exclusively for convicts serving life terms, nicknamed the "Black Dolphin."

As part of his sentence -- a rare case in Russia of a convicted murderer being given a second

life sentence -- Popkov was also deprived of his police pension.

### Covered his tracks

Prosecutors have described Popkov as having "a pathologi-



**Popkov was caught in 2012 after investigators re-examined the case and carried out DNA testing of residents, focusing on those who drove a make of car that matched tracks found at crime scenes**

cal attraction to killing people" but he was ruled sane enough to stand trial. Investigators had suspected a policeman was behind the crime because of the way the killer covered his tracks.

The murders took place while he was a serving police officer and after he left the force in 1998. In a 2017 interview with

Russia's Meduza website, Popkov said he gave women lifts and targeted those who were drunk or living in a way he saw as immoral, saying that "any society condemns the behaviour of a debauched woman".

While already in jail, he confessed to 59 further murders but was convicted only of 56 on Monday because investigators had not managed to prove three of the crimes took place, *Interfax news agency* reported, citing the court's press service.

Investigators said they uncovered the remains of some of the victims' bodies based on Popkov's account, as well as finding murder weapons including axes, chisels and knives.

The number of killings for which he has been convicted exceeds the totals of several notorious murderers in Russia and the ex-Soviet Union.

"Chessboard Killer" Alexander Pichushkin was sentenced to life in prison in 2007 for 48 murders and Andrei Chikatilo was convicted of 52 Soviet-era murders.

# Iran's terrorist proxies a regional time bomb

*The West and Arab world's failure to support their Baghdad allies is producing a government dedicated to imposing Iran's will*



BARIA ALAMUDDIN

A federal trial in the US is studying evidence that the Islamic Republic of Iran was responsible for hundreds of bombings that killed and maimed more than 1,000 US troops stationed in Iraq between 2003 and 2011.

The \$10 billion lawsuit could mean the plaintiffs becoming eligible for financial compensation from a fund for victims of state-sponsored terrorism.

Over a billion dollars has already been seized from banks that laundered money for Iran as compensation for Tehran's global role in terrorism. Iran's backing for thousands of attacks by Iraqi Shiite militants is well documented, along with evidence of supplying arms to Sunni extremists. The challenge now is to convince a jury beyond all reasonable doubt that Iran was directly responsible.

As Tehran adopted the strategy of bogging America down in an unwinnable conflict in Iraq, US forces came under attack from increasingly lethal munitions. Explosively formed penetrators (EFPs) were complicated to manufacture and required special training to use, but they easily penetrated tank armor. EFPs deployed by both Sunni and Shiite militants originated in Iran and most had even been forged in the same machine. Iran's Qassem Soleimani established entirely new Iraqi militia forces, such as Asa'ib Ahl Al-Haq and the Hezbollah Brigades.

Asa'ib Ahl Al-Haq gained notoriety for a 2007 raid against the coalition headquarters in Karbala, during which four US soldiers were kidnapped and then murdered. This raid avenged a coalition operation against a Quds Force convoy in northern Iraq,



Shaikh Qais Al Khazali, the Iraqi secretary-general of the Asa'ib Ahl Al Haq Group, is an Iran-backed militia leader.

during which Soleimani only escaped because Kurdish politicians hid him in a safe house.

In the aftermath of these incidents, leading figures affiliated with Asa'ib Ahl Al-Haq – including Hezbollah operative Ali Daquq and Qais Al-Khazali, who today is a prominent politician and paramilitary leader – were rounded up. In recently published testimonies, Al-Khazali detailed to his captors how Soleimani oversaw the smuggling of weapons and funds to militants. "The ultimate goal of Iran is to destroy the Americans," Al-Khazali told his captors, adding: "Iran is using both the US and the Iraqis to keep each other busy through fighting while Iran pursues their own agenda." America was unwise not to heed these warnings.

These same forces are today threatening renewed attacks against Western assets, while battling to secure a controlling interest in the new Iraqi government, including retaining

control of the Interior Ministry. From 2005, veteran militant and then-Interior Minister Bayan Jabr oversaw the mass recruitment of tens of thousands of former paramilitaries as security personnel. Under militant control, the ministry established a network of secret prisons, in which thousands of arbitrarily detained Iraqis were brutally tortured to the point of death. The wholesale incorporation of militants into the police and armed forces has continued ever since.

Between 2005 and 2008, rogue Interior Ministry death squads murdered thousands of Sunni citizens. Attacks focused on mixed areas of Baghdad, which quickly became almost 100 percent Shiite, also eradicating much of the Christian population. Militants in police uniforms abducted civilians and murdered them with electric drills. Others were burnt alive, decapitated, stoned and tortured to death in orgies of brutality that anticipat-

Seven months after parliamentary elections in Iraq and Lebanon, Iran-backed factions have imposed political paralysis in order to shoehorn their nominees into leading positions.

ed and exceeded Daesh. Baghdad's morgues overflowed with corpses.

According to the official UN tally, 34,452 civilians were killed in 2006 alone, while a total of 4.7 million people became displaced. Sunnis in Adhamiyah dug up their football pitch and filled it with the bodies of the dead. Renewed bouts of sectarian bloodletting by these paramil-

itaries followed the post-2014 recapture of cities like Fallujah, Ramadi and Tikrit from Daesh, during which thousands of civilians were executed or abducted and thousands of homes were destroyed.

If Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi hands the Interior Ministry to Falih Al-Fayyadh, he allows Iran-backed militias to continue expanding their stranglehold over the state. Since 2014, Al-Fayyadh has headed the commission overseeing the Al-Hashd Al-Shaabi paramilitary umbrella force. I got into an argument with Al-Fayyadh at the 2017 IISS Manama Dialogue, where he denied well-documented massacres and war crimes by Al-Hashd. He called these militants "national heroes" and claimed they couldn't be sectarian because of token Sunnis and minority personnel within their ranks.

Seven months after parliamentary elections in Iraq and Lebanon, Iran-backed factions have

imposed political paralysis in order to shoehorn their nominees into leading positions. In both states, the deeply flawed system of sectarian distribution of posts was designed to ensure that all sects were properly represented. However, Iran's allies have subverted this process by cramming Sunni and Kurdish allies into the roles of parliamentary speaker and president in Iraq. Hezbollah is trying to pull off the same trick in Lebanon.

These processes are a parody of democracy. Tehran's Iraqi allies won a tiny proportion of parliamentary seats, yet are dominating key government posts. The West and Arab world's failure to support their Baghdad allies is producing a government dedicated to imposing Iran's will, while sidelining other components of Iraq's society.

Ongoing US trials into Tehran's role in terrorism should be a salutary reminder of the consequences of allowing Iran to consolidate itself regionally, including in Syria, where Tehran's proxies are expanding in the east, while escalating tensions with Israel in the southwest. One day soon we will wake up to new reminders of why we were so dangerously wrong to allow Iranian proxies to insinuate themselves at all levels of the region's political, military and social systems. With militants skilled in the arts of sectarian cleansing, mass murder and crimes against humanity without striking distance of chokepoints for global maritime trade, like Bab Al-Mandab, Hormuz and the eastern Mediterranean, this is not just a localized threat.

Once Iran believes its regional posture to be impregnable, we will face a much more dangerous reckoning in the near future making the confrontation with Daesh look like a walk in the park.

(Baria Alamuddin is an award-winning journalist and broadcaster in the Middle East and the UK. She is editor of the Media Services Syndicate and has interviewed numerous heads of state

## CIVILIAN'S TRIBUNE

### Mrs May, please leave

Theresa May clearly believes that her appalling compromises to the EU reflect the Brexit vote – 52 per cent for Leave, 48 per cent for Remain – and will keep everyone happy.

It hasn't worked. The only folks who are happy with her deal are the EU officials, who now have the British where they wanted.

Many have left her Cabinet and



the country is in shatters. The country is much more divided now than it was a few years or decades ago.

The Prime Minister and her unaccountable officials have presented us with a constitutional crisis. Mrs May is not the person to fix it. She must go – now.

Dr A Donald



1934

**Bill Wilson**, co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous, takes his last drink and enters treatment for the last time.



1941

**World War II:** Poland declares war on the Empire of Japan.

1941

**World War II:** The Imperial Japanese Navy suffers its first loss of surface vessels during the Battle of Wake Island.

1946

**The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)** is established.

# Flawless phishes, monetisation and intelligence: What's ahead for cybersecurity in 2019?

The World Economic Forum recently placed cybersecurity as the fifth biggest global risk for doing business



**BRIAN PINNOCK**

What lies ahead for companies, governments and individuals regarding cybersecurity in 2019? Will we see the EU government forcing US data centers to hand over data? Will the European Union issue its first major fines for organisations in contravention of its General Data Protection Regulation? Will our growing dependence on social media expose us to unwanted risks as our accounts become compromised?

The World Economic Forum recently placed cybersecurity as the fifth biggest global risk for doing business, with 19 countries ranking it as their number one concern, including 14 in Europe and North America, as well as Japan, India, Indonesia, Singapore and the UAE. As the political climate around the world continues to create volatility, growing numbers of connected global citizens will turn to the Internet to have their message heard. The growth in connected devices - from consumer wearables to industrial IoT to medical devices - is compounding the security challenge as each device represents a potential cybersecurity risk.

Here, we take a global look at some of the key developments we expect to see on the cybersecurity front in 2019.

## More effective, not different, cyberattack types

Throughout 2019, the most insidious development won't be new attack types but rather improved execution of existing attack types, especially those delivered via email. Bet-

ter social engineering, more advanced phishing attacks, increases in credential stuffing attacks, and more complicated malware with multiple stages and different form factors for transmission, will make threats incredibly tricky to detect.

Phishing techniques like the use of homoglyphs, elongated URLs, the use of legitimate certifications (green lock), and credential-harvesting sites will increase. Flawless phishes will continue to prey on the gap in human firewalls, pivoting internally around organisations and intensifying efforts to better educate all staff. Cybersecurity awareness training, which according to a global Mimecast and Vanson Bourne study is only continuously conducted by 11% of global organisations, will receive renewed attention as organisations bolster the capabilities of their first line of defence: their employees.

Cybercriminals will also shift focus to weaker countries and industry verticals that lag in their adoption of more advanced cyber defences. More industrialised countries are investing heavily in cybersecurity, making them less attractive to cybercriminals. Companies in particularly the Middle East and Africa often assume their security is sufficient without realising that the threat landscape is drastically shifting. This makes them easy targets for cybercriminals who tend to follow the path of least resistance. Attackers will also continue to shift their attention away from larger organisations to small and medium businesses.

## Monetisation of data breaches

There have been several highly successful high-profile data breaches over the past few years. From Equifax to Facebook, eBay to JPMorgan,

Cybercriminals will also shift focus to weaker countries and industry verticals that lag in their adoption of more advanced cyber defences.

hackers have made off with sensitive data for hundreds of millions of user accounts. Just recently, Marriott announced that its Starwood database was hacked for approximately 500 million guests - one of the largest breaches in history. With global cybercrime organisations' growing in maturity and sophistication, many are now acquiring capabilities that were once the sole reserve of nation states. We're likely to see these cybercriminals use stolen credentials from the past few years' data breaches to compromise the security of even the most secure organisations. Even companies with good cyber protection have little protection against the reuse of passwords that have been collected in other breaches.

The evolution of cyberattacks has also created entire ecosystems of fraud. Stolen personal health information, for example, could be used to gain insight to patients' ailments and likely treatments. Hackers could use this information to obtain prescriptions for strictly controlled medication that is then traded or sold illegally. It's no longer just about a straightforward cyberattack: cybercrime is fast becoming a trickle-down eco-

nom system with multiple layers of fraud and criminality built into its very fabric.

## Intelligence becomes 'intelligent'

Organisations will realise the importance of threat intelligence and will talk about the need for an intelligence function. What they really mean is that they want some insight from their vendors around the huge amounts of threat data they're acquiring. There may be a handful of organisations who will stop recasting threat data as intelligence and instead focus on generating actionable insights from this data, the prerequisite for 'threat intelligence'. Unfortunately, the vast majority still won't take any action from the data presented, which means they won't actually have any intelligence - only an interesting storyline.

Artificial intelligence and machine learning will play a more prominent role as the velocity and variety of attacks makes conventional approaches - such as blacklists - outdated and ill-equipped to deal with modern cyber threats. The average phishing site, for example, is only online for a few hours. With such a crowded domain space, attackers have to be clever about the domains they register and exploit. Luckily, these domains generally have certain characteristics, which machine learning algorithms can exploit and detect, while other properties of attack vectors can also be recognised by appropriately trained AI.

AI will also be used to detect break-ins, spam, phishing and more. Although it will mostly work well, look out for the occasional mistake: these will be utterly incomprehensible to humans, and very hard for

vendors to explain to their customers.

## From financial gain to life-and-death

As our world becomes increasingly digitised and connected devices continue to permeate every aspect of our daily lives, the risks posed by cybercriminals are escalating. A large-scale attack on critical infrastructure such as energy services, water supplies or even hospitals could cause massive damage and even loss of life. Autonomous vehicles, although not prevalent on our shores yet, are attractive targets for the more ruthless type of cybercriminal. And with the growth in digital medical devices, hackers could directly target an individual and interfere with their pacemakers or heart rate monitors.

Privacy will also become a key concern: consumer connected devices such as cameras, microphones and wearables will become a major security issue as hackers discover ways to see live audio and video of unsuspecting people's lives. The fallout of such an incident being exposed could drastically erode trust in technology and make people treat technology with greater caution as they realise the devices they have enjoyed without concern, carry immense risk to their personal privacy and security.

Even though the threat landscape keeps changing what seems to be the common thread is that email continues to be the most common - and least protected - attack vector. We can't predict exactly what 2019 threats will look like, but we can predict that while email remains vulnerable it will continue to be the preferred entry point for criminals to deliver threats to your organisation.

(Brian Pinnock is a cybersecurity specialist at Mimecast.)



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



"Democrats can't find a Smocking Gun tying the Trump campaign to Russia after James Comey's testimony. No Smocking Gun...No Collusion." @FoxNews That's because there was NO COLLUSION. So now the Dems go to a simple private transaction, wrongly call it a campaign contribution,...

@realDonaldTrump

02



Love, kindness, compassion and tolerance are qualities common to all the great religions, and whether or not we follow any particular religious tradition, the benefits of love and kindness are obvious to anyone.

@DalaiLama

03



Dr. Urjit Patel is a thorough professional with impeccable integrity. He has been in the Reserve Bank of India for about 6 years as Deputy Governor and Governor. He leaves behind a great legacy. We will miss him immensely.

@narendramodi

04



I have deleted the photo of my lunch in Goa as it was in poor taste. I do wish however to again highlight the absolute hypocrisy of the BJP in the matter of beef, and to reiterate my own belief that humans must have the right to eat, dress, and fall in love as they choose.

@Ram\_Guha

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

# business

## 522 cos register for VAT

● Firms have until 20 December 2018 to register

● The VAT implementation date will be 1 January 2019.

● VAT at a 5pc was part of GCC agreement

● The Law exempts 94 listed basic food stuffs, other goods and services

TDI | Manama

The first phase of VAT implementation in Bahrain is progressing fast with 522 firms already registering

with the National Bureau of Taxation (NBT), said a top official.

Rana Ibrahim Faqihi, the Assistant Undersecretary for the Development and Policy of Public Revenues at the Ministry of Finance and National Economy, said the first phase of VAT implementation concerns firms with annual revenues of BD5 million or more.

"Such firms have until 20 December 2018 to register with the NBT," said Faqihi. The VAT implementation date will be 1 January 2019.

The VAT Law executive regulations, Faqihi said, include the exemption of 94 listed basic foodstuffs and other goods and services.

The executive regulations also include an explanation of the operational aspects of the VAT Law. Bahrain's VAT regulation



is in line with the unified VAT agreement approved by the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The move follows the approval of the draft law by both the Upper and Lower houses after a Royal decree issued in this regard.

When comes into effect, Bahrain will become the third country in the GCC after the UAE and Saudi Arabia to implement the

framework as per the Unified VAT Agreement for the GCC states.

Introducing VAT at a 5 per cent rate was part of a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) agreement in 2018.

Bahrain released the VAT Law on 9 October 2018 via the Official Gazette website. In accordance with the GCC VAT Agreement, Article 2 of the Law

provides that the supply of all goods and services made in Bahrain, as well as imports, shall be subject to VAT.

Article 3 of the Law provides for a standard rate of 5pc, while certain goods and services may be subject to a zero-rate or exempt from VAT, according to EY.

Article 53 of the Law sets out provisions where certain supplies and sectors are subject to the zero-rate of VAT.

Article 51 provides that import VAT should be paid to the customs authority, where Bahrain is the first point of entry.

Oman has announced that VAT would be introduced in 2019. The Kuwaiti parliament, however, is yet to vote on the VAT.

According to EY, 5pc VAT is expected to produce revenues of over \$25 billion per annum for the six GCC countries.

## 'Yellow vest' protests to cut Q4 growth

Paris, France

The Bank of France yesterday slashed its fourth quarter growth forecast in half, to 0.2 per cent from 0.4pc, citing the impact of the "yellow vest" protests which have rocked the country.

"Services activity has slowed under the impact of the movement. Transport, the restaurant and auto repair sectors have gone backwards," the French central bank said in its latest company survey.

Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire had warned that the protests sweeping France were a "catastrophe" for the economy.

"It's a catastrophe for commerce, it's a catastrophe for our economy," Le Maire said as he visited shops in Paris hit by looting during anti-govt riots a day earlier.

## Japan economy shrinks

Tokyo, Japan

Japan's economy shrank twice as much as initially thought in the three months to September, with natural disasters weighing on investment, official data showed Monday.

Gross domestic product for the July-September period contracted 0.6 percent from

the previous quarter, Cabinet Office data showed, revising down the figure from the preliminary estimate of a 0.3-percent contraction.

The reading comes after growth of 0.7 percent in the April-June period, and was slightly weaker than market expectations of a 0.5-percent contraction.



Bahrain Clear, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bahrain Bourse, held its first awareness session at Bourse's premises yesterday. The session was attended by more than 40 representatives from listed companies and included a detailed presentation conducted by Abdulla Abidin, Bahrain Clear's Senior Director of Operations.



Participants of a workshop titled "Extreme Learning" organised for the Executives, Directors and Managers by Aluminium Bahrain from December 4 - 5, 2018 at Alba Club. Presented by the communication consultant and speaker Mark Magnacca, the workshop focused on providing innovative tools and methods to address and overcome the obstacles that might prevent Alba from achieving Extreme Ownership as the company progress towards Line 6 Safe Start-up

## Mastering the secrets of Bahrain's traditional Silversmithing

TDI | Manama

Eight women in the Kingdom will be now using their new found skills to create stunning silverware and jewellery to enhance their lives and professional portfolios.

Helping them master the tricks of the silversmithing trade was Sharifa Al Doseri as part of the 'Silversmithing - Level 1' workshop.

The initiative was part of Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions

Authority's (BTEA), represented by the Handicrafts Directorate, effort to preserve Bahrain's handicrafts and traditional industries.

"It gives us great pleasure to host the 'Silversmithing - Lev-

el 1' workshop once again. We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to all trainers and participants who took part," said the President of Al Jasrah Handicrafts Centre, Yasser Al Sayed. The workshop, which

was hosted for the second time this year, focused on the basic skills and techniques used in silversmithing to help them become professional trainers.

Certificates were distributed to the participants on the 4th of

December 2018.

"We also look forward to hosting more training courses in the coming year that will contribute significantly to the development of the handicrafts sector in the Kingdom," said Al Sayed.



Participants during a photocall after receiving their certificates with officials



In pictures, scenes from the workshop conducted by BTEA represented by the Handicrafts Directorate

## Turkey economic growth slows



Representative picture

### Ankara, Turkey

Turkey's economic growth slowed considerably in the third quarter, official data showed yesterday, reflecting the effects of the currency crisis and high inflation.

Compared to the third quarter of 2017, the Turkish economy grew by 1.6 percent in the three months to September, figures from the Turkish Statistics Institute (TUIK) showed.

The figure was substantially lower than the 5.3pc -- revised on Monday from 5.2pc in September -- recorded in the second quarter.

Seasonally and calendar adjusted the economy contracted by 1.1pc in the third quarter compared with the second.

Inflation surged to 25.24pc in October, a 15-year high, before it dropped to 21.62pc in November.

The rate of increase in consumer prices was 10.35pc in January this year.

# Gulf Hotel Bahrain sets new benchmark



The award ceremony. Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention &amp; Spa received seven grand awards this year

### TDT | Manama

The Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention & Spa has yet again created history by becoming the first hotel to receive seven grand awards this year for the hotels fine dining restaurants and bars during the Fact Awards 2018.

The Gulf Hotel has also received recognition for Rasoi by Vineet as the best fine dining restaurant in Bahrain by the BBC Good Food Award Middle East, held in Dubai.

Fares Yactine, General Manager, for The Gulf Hotel Bahrain

Convention & Spa said; "We are very proud and honoured and these awards certainly define our commitment to providing our utmost care and hospitality to our patrons and guests. We will remain dedicated to our mission to maintain the service standards while going the extra mile to exceed guest satisfaction."

**The Gulf Hotel has also received recognition for Rasoi by Vineet as the best fine dining restaurant in Bahrain**

### Key takeaways

#### The awards won by Gulf Hotel Convention & Spa

1. Rasoi By Vineet Best fine dining restaurant in Bahrain by the BBC Good food Award Middle East - Held in Dubai
2. Favourite Fine-Dining Italian Restaurant in Bahrain 2018 LA PERGOLA BY PERBELLINI
3. Favourite Lebanese Restaurant in Bahrain 2018 Zahle
4. Favourite Iranian Restaurant in Bahrain 2018 Takht Jam sheed
5. Best Fine-Dining Indian Restaurant in Bahrain 2018 Rasoi By Vineet
6. Best Pub in Bahrain 2018 Sherlock Holmes
7. Best Ramadan Iftar Experience in Bahrain 2018 Khaimat AL Khaleej.
8. Favourite Chinese Restaurant in Bahrain 2018 - China Garden

## SoftBank aims to raise \$23bn on Japan mobile unit IPO



### Tokyo, Japan

Telecoms giant and technology investor SoftBank Group aims to raise over \$23 billion by listing its Japanese mobile unit next week in one of the biggest tech IPOs in years.

In a statement, the group confirmed yesterday it had formally decided to offer 1.76 billion shares, more than a one-third stake, in the SoftBank Corp mobile unit, with shares priced at 1,500 yen (\$13) each.

The offering includes 160 million shares added on strong demand.

The IPO will help raise funds for the company as it increasingly transforms into an investment firm, ploughing money into a broad range of companies and projects around the world. After the listing in Tokyo on December 19, SoftBank Group will hold some 63pc of the mobile unit.

The offering price values the mobile unit at more than seven trillion yen, and the IPO could be Japan's biggest-ever, local media said.

## EU court rules Britain can revoke Brexit unilaterally

### Luxembourg, Luxembourg

Europe's top court ruled yesterday that Britain could halt Brexit without the approval of fellow EU member states.

"The United Kingdom is free to revoke unilaterally the notification of its intention to withdraw from the EU," the European Court of Justice said, in response to a suit from a group of Scottish politicians.

"Such a revocation, decided in accordance with its own national constitutional requirements, would have the effect that the United Kingdom remains in the EU under terms that are unchanged as regards its status as a member State," the court ruled.

Following a 2016 referendum, Britain declared its intention to quit the European Union on March 29 last year,



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May

triggering the "Article 50" EU treaty procedure that would see it definitively leave two years later, on the same date next year.

British Prime Minister Theresa May's government insists it has no intention of halting the process and has agreed a draft withdrawal agreement with the 27 remaining member states. The withdrawal agreement is expected to go before the British parliament for approval on Tuesday.

## IMF economist predicts US slowdown

### Washington, United States

Americans will begin feeling the effects next year of a marked slowing in world economic growth but should be spared a new recession, the chief economist of the International Monetary Fund said in remarks published yesterday.

"We have long been predicting somewhat lower (US) growth for 2019 than what we are seeing this year," as the effects of the Trump administration's fiscal and budgetary measures begin to fade, IMF chief economist Maurice Obstfeld said.

He was speaking in an interview with the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Financial Times*, just days before he is to retire from the world body.

The slowdown "is going to be sharper probably in 2020 than in 2019, according to the data we are seeing," Obstfeld said.

The IMF has already revised downward its 2019 growth prediction for the US, to 2.5 percent from the 2.8 percent expected for this year.

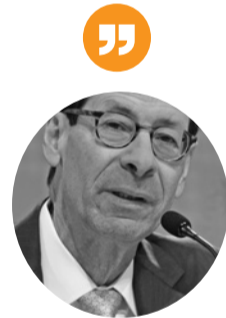
"For the rest of the world there seems to be some air coming out of the balloon," he said, pointing to weaker than expected third-quarter economic results in Asia and Europe.

"That will come back and also affect the US."

As he has for months, Obstfeld again deplored the trade frictions -- notably between the United States and China, but also between the US and other trading partners, including Europe -- that threaten global growth.

But he ruled out the possibility that the world might see another Great Depression, as it did in the 1930s, when "trade absolutely collapsed under the pressure of trade restrictions."

"I see the tensions now as be-



**We have long been predicting somewhat lower (US) growth for 2019 than what we are seeing this year as the effects of the Trump administration's fiscal and budgetary measures begin to fade**

MAURICE OBSTFELD  
IMF CHIEF ECONOMIST

ing possibly damaging because so much of global investment and production is tied up in trade," he said, "but not liable to the kind of collapse we saw in the 1930s."

Obstfeld will be succeeded at the IMF by Harvard professor Gita Gopinath.

In a separate interview with *CBS*, IMF managing director Christine Lagarde again deplored the trade tensions that have brought steadily increasing tariffs.

Asked about the recent anti-government protests in France, she said there was "no doubt" they would have an economic impact.

"Those are very sad images," she said of the globally televised pictures of vandalism and violence on the streets of the French capital.

"I'm a true Parisian, and to see what's happening in Paris is extremely sad."

## Tesla CEO Elon Musk taunts US financial regulatory agency

### Washington, United States

Elon Musk, the CEO of Tesla, openly derided the US Securities and Exchange Commission in an interview aired Sunday, having settled fraud charges with the regulatory agency over an errant tweet.

"I want to be clear. I do not respect the SEC -- I do not respect them" he said in an interview on the CBS network news program "60 Minutes."

Musk had to resign as Tesla chairman under a September

arrangement with the SEC to settle fraud charges stemming from a tweet in which he said he planned to take the firm private and already had the financing to do it.

That caused a brief spike in Tesla's share price, leading so-called short-sellers, who have been betting on the stock crashing for years, to lose millions.

Musk and Tesla each had to pay a \$20 million fine to the agency, to be split among harmed investors. He was forced



Elon Musk

to resign as chairman but allowed to remain CEO.

The SEC had also demanded oversight of the mercurial Musk's social media use.

But he said in the Sunday interview that no one was proof-reading his tweets.

"The only tweets that would have to be, say, reviewed would be if a tweet had a probability of causing a movement in the stock," he said.

"Otherwise it's 'Hello, First Amendment,' he continued, ref-

erencing the US constitutional right to free speech, which he called "fundamental."

Asked how Tesla would know if his tweets would move the market if they weren't all being read, Musk replied: "Well, I guess we might make some mistakes. Who knows?"

**"Nobody's perfect."**

Musk said he was abiding by the settlement, however, "because I respect the justice system."

# The All-New Lexus UX

TDT | Manama

**E**brahim K. Kanoo, the sole distributor of Lexus vehicles in the Kingdom, launched the all-new Lexus UX in Bahrain, an innovative addition to the Luxury Compact Crossover segment.

The all-new model combines the brand's latest luxury offerings and safety technologies in a package that combines new charismatic design elements and ultra-efficient powertrains.

While the UX name is derived from the guiding concept of the vehicle's design team and describes the vehicle's mission as Urban + X-over (crossover), the all-new model is engineered to deliver a quick and engaging driving experience with a Lexus-smooth demeanour, making it a unique entry in the luxury compact crossover segment.

Ebrahim K. Kanoo Senior Manager for Lexus Marketing, Ayman Shehadeh, commented on the latest addition to Lexus stating; "Lexus perpetually strives to create extraordinary Experiences and that is exactly what they have achieved with this latest addition to the Lexus Family. This is by far one of the most exciting crossovers in the market due to its sophisticated playfulness and emotional dy-



Launch ceremony of the all-new Lexus

namism which evokes the true sense of Lexus."

The all-new model is the first Lexus vehicle to be constructed on the new Global Architecture Compact (GA-C) platform.

Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, ugo Miyamoto

commented, "We are very excited to launch the all-new Lexus UX, an innovative vehicle that is tailored to the evolving needs and aspirations of our customers in Bahrain and the region."

Lexus UX has a front-wheel drive configuration and is powered by a new 2.0 litre, four-cyl-

inder engine, which is coupled with a new 10-speed Direct Shift Continuously Variable Transmission (DCVT). It offers a host of features, including a Drive Select controller with up to five modes that allows the driver to tailor the driving experience. The 2019 Lexus UX introduces world-firsts such as wireless

lighting for the airflow knob and a unique aero ventilation design, which was developed to reduce air turbulence over the wheel surface. The all-new model also has a Lexus-first palm rest integrated audio control system, as well as Lexus' advanced safety technology package, Lexus Safety System+.

The UX 200 delivers a combination of engaging performance and high efficiency from a newly developed 2.0-litre inline four-cylinder engine, which produces 169 hp and 205 Nm of torque.

To explore visit showroom in Sitra, call 17 737773, or visit [www.lexus.com.bh](http://www.lexus.com.bh).

## Huawei CFO cites health issues in bail request

Montreal, Canada

**A** top executive with Chinese telecom giant Huawei argued in court documents released Sunday that she should be released on bail from her Canadian jail while waiting possible extradition to the United States.

In a sworn affidavit, Huawei chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou said that she has been treated in a Canadian hospital for hypertension since she was arrested in Vancouver on December 1 for possible extradition.

Meng, the daughter of Huawei founder Ren Zhengfei, faces US



Media and members of the public line up outside the British Columbia Supreme Court to attend the trial of Meng Wanzhou

fraud charges related to alleged sanctions-breaking dealings with Iran.

She is being held in custody awaiting a Canadian court's decision on bail on Monday.

In a 55-page affidavit Meng said that she has suffered from severe hypertension for years. "I continue to feel unwell and I am worried about my health deteriorating while I am incarcerated," the document read.

Meng said that she has had "numerous health problems" during her life, including surgery for thyroid cancer in 2011.

"I wish to remain in Vancouver to contest my extradition and I will contest the allegations at trial in the US if I ultimately surrendered," she said.

Meng said she has ties to Vancouver that go back 15 years. She and her husband own several properties in the city, and she

even had a Canadian permanent residency permit that she has since renounced.

In a bail hearing that was adjourned on Friday, Canadian Crown prosecutor John Gibb-Carsley asked for bail to be denied, saying Meng has been accused of "conspiracy to defraud multiple financial institutions."

He said if convicted, she faces more than 30 years in prison.

The extradition process could take months, even years, if appeals are made in the case.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has said politics played no part in the decision to arrest Meng.

## Ghosn served with fresh arrest warrant

Tokyo, Japan

**J**apanese prosecutors yesterday formally charged Carlos Ghosn with financial misconduct for under-reporting his salary and also served a fresh warrant on separate allegations.

Prosecutors pressed formal charges on Ghosn -- and key aide Greg Kelly. The pair were also immediately re-arrested over fresh allegations that they conspired to under-declare Ghosn's income by a further four billion yen over the past three years.

## Egyptian market enjoys best day in two years

● **Egypt's Madinet Nasr, SODIC rise on merger update**

● **Dubai's Emaar, Union Properties hit five-year low**

● **Egypt's annual urban consumer inflation falls**

● **Saudi's Bupa Arabia gains on insurance contract**

Reuters

**E**gypt's blue-chip index rose yesterday for its biggest one-day gain in two years, after



Visitors look at stock price information displayed on a digital screen inside the Saudi Stock Exchange

the country's annual inflation dipped. Real estate continued to weigh on Dubai.

Egypt's annual urban consumer price inflation dipped to 15.7 per cent in November from 17.7pc in October, the official statistics agency CAPMAS said

yesterday, exceeding analysts' expectations.

Inflation had spiked in October because of supply problems in the domestic fruit and vegetable market.

The Egyptian blue-chip index jumped 2.8pc, with 26 of its 30

stocks gaining. It follows an almost 30pc drop in the larger EGX 100 index since May this year.

The country's largest lender, Commercial International Bank, added 4.8pc. The Middle East's biggest investment bank, EFG Hermes, gained 4.9pc.

El Sewedy Electric rose 4.9pc after it said its unit had signed a contract to develop land at Ain Sokhna economic zone.

Sixth Of Development and Investment (SODIC) climbed 5.5pc. It said on Sunday that it would pay 800 million pounds (\$44.79 million) as part of a settlement deal with the Illicit Gains Authority.

Meanwhile, Madinet Nasr For Housing And Development gained 6.7pc after saying it was still interested in merging with SODIC.

In Dubai, the index lost 2pc,

continuing to hover at its lowest level in more than five years. Union Properties sank 10pc to trade at its lowest in more than five years, while Emaar Properties slumped 4.6pc to hit a more than five year closing low.

But Islamic Arab Insurance rose 5.4pc after Goldilocks Investment Company, a unit of the Abu Dhabi Financial Group, increased its ownership in the firm to 14.1pc.

The Abu Dhabi index dropped 1pc, pressured by its banks. The index heavyweight First Abu Dhabi Bank shed 0.9pc and the head of equities at its asset management group left, Reuters reported citing two sources familiar with the matter.

Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank fell 3.8pc. The bank's Egyptian unit, Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank Egypt, said on Sunday that it expected a

fall of up to 8pc in its 2019 profit due to tax changes in Egypt.

Saudi Arabia's main index slid 0.3pc with oil weighing on its banks and petrochemical shares.

Oil fell on Monday, in line with further declines in global stock markets, erasing the gains made last week when OPEC and other key exporters agreed to cut their crude output from January.

Riyad Bank shed 2.3pc and the top petrochemical maker, Saud Basic Industries, fell 0.7pc.

But Bupa Arabia For Cooperative Insurance Company gained 2.7pc after it said it will provide health insurance services to National Commercial Bank's employees and their families for 2019. National Commercial Bank added 0.6pc.

Qatar's index fell 0.5pc with Qatar Navigation falling 2pc and Qatar Fuel losing 1.4pc.



sports

**Athletes welcome new weight classes**

TDT | Manama

Brave Combat Federation revealed that two new weight classes are officially announced during Brave 19 hosted in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The weight classes will be active from the year 2019. Bahrain based global MMA promotion will adopt the super lightweight (165 pounds) and super welterweight (175 pounds) weight classes, eliminating the traditional welterweight (170 pounds) in the process.

The current welterweight champion Jarrah Hussein Al-Silawi, who claimed the 170-pound belt with a first-round victory over Carlston Harris in September, will be crowned the super welterweight titleholder when the change is made official.

The new weight classes will make it easier for fighters to make the weights and would lower risks of weight cuts. It also means that fighters are likely to fight closer to natural weight.

After the announcements, Carl Booth, Tahar Hadbi and David Bear expressed their interest to join 175 division which is opted by Jarrah Al-Selawe.

# AC Milan held by Torino

AC Milan missed a chance to pile pressure on local rivals Inter Milan in Serie A

AFP | Milan

AC Milan missed a chance to pile pressure on local rivals and fellow Champions League chasers Inter Milan in Serie A after being held to a goalless draw by Torino at the San Siro on Sunday.

Gennaro Gattuso's fourth-placed Milan are three points behind Inter, who lost to leaders Juventus on Friday, after wasting opportunities to win the match, with forward Patrick Cutrone missing a golden chance with four minutes left and Gonzalo Higuain, returning from a two-match ban, also denied late.

Milan's wastefulness wasn't punished by Torino, four points behind Milan in sixth and still unbeaten away from home, thanks to goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma denying Iago Falque and Andrea Belotti.

"I don't consider it a missed opportunity, as we knew very well that Torino are a difficult team," said Gattuso.

"It's a good point. I don't see it as a bad performance at all. I am sure that a year ago, we would have lost this game."



AC Milan's Spanish forward Suso (L) runs for the ball with Torino's French defender Koffi Djidji

Milan also had the chance to move away from Lazio, who contrived to draw 2-2 with Sampdoria on Saturday despite taking lead five minutes into stoppage time, and Roma, who threw away a two-goal lead to draw at Cagliari after Sardinians were reduced to nine men.

All lag behind Juve, who are eight points clear of second-placed Napoli.

Earlier Duvan Zapata got Atalanta back to winning ways after consecutive losses with a

hat-trick against former club Udinese that brought them to within touching distance of Champions League places, last of which is occupied by Milan.

"Zapata's enjoying a good moment," said Atalanta coach Gian Piero Gasperini, after the South American also scored in last week's defeat to Napoli, who had loaned him to Udinese.

"He's in great condition and is an extra option for us."

Colombian striker Zapata's goals put Gian Piero Gasperini's side seventh, level on 21 points with three other teams and five behind Milan.

"We're in the company of great teams, everyone can fight for the Europa League and maybe even for fourth place," said Gasperini.

**Piatek overtakes Ronaldo**

Cesare Prandelli started his reign as Genoa coach with a 1-1 draw against fellow strugglers SPAL, despite captain Domenico Criscito being sent off in the 11th minute.

Andrea Petagna had headed SPAL ahead minutes after Criscito's dismissal for a high tackle,

but Krzysztof Pietek earned Genoa a point from the penalty spot with his 11th goal of the season -- taking him ahead of Cristiano Ronaldo at the top of the scoring charts.

On-loan Everton winger Kevin Mirallas struck his first Serie A goal six minutes into injury time to snatch a point for Fiorentina in a dramatic 3-3 draw at Sassuolo that saw both teams finish with 10 men.

Belgian Mirallas, 31, who joined the Tuscan side on a season-long loan after falling out of favour at Goodison Park, came on as a late substitute and made an instant impact when he beat Sassuolo keeper Andrea Consigli with seconds remaining.

A chaotic final period saw Sassuolo's Filip Djuricic and Fiorentina's Nikola Milenkovic sent off before Fiorentina struck back.

Mirallas' late leveller, which came after his side had gone 3-1 down with 10 minutes remaining, means ninth-placed Sassuolo are also on 21 points, two points ahead of Fiorentina, who drop to 12th after their eighth game without a win.



AC Milan's 19-year-old goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma played his 100th consecutive full Serie A game

## Al-Selawe shoots down rematch opportunity for Booth

TDT | Manama

Carl Booth made his return to Brave Combat Federation after nearly a year of absence in the promotion. The welterweight from England made a huge statement when he knocked out of South African veteran Dino Bagattin at Brave 19 held at Johannesburg in South Africa.

In the bout, that is crucial to his career after two consecutive losses, Booth wasted no time as he aggressively dominated the fighter from South Africa. Bagattin was knocked out in the very first round which gave Booth his first victory for the year 2018.

Booth's only losses in Brave Combat Federation came against the current and previous welterweight world champions. Booth made his professional debut when he knocked out the reigning welterweight world champion, Jarrah Al Selawe within 31 seconds of the first round.

In the bout that took almost 8 years in the making, Al-Selawe faced Booth



Carl Booth confronts Jarrah Al Selawe

at Brave 9: The Kingdom of Champions held in the Kingdom of Bahrain during the Brave International Combat Week 2017. Al-Selawe won the bout by unanimous decision.

Booth was asked whom he wants to face next, to which the fighter who trains at Nottingham MMA responded, "Anyone close to the title contention, man. Jarrah is holding the title at the

moment. Give me someone who is a top man."

However, the reigning welterweight world champion did not mince his words when it came to his old rival. Jarrah Al Selawe who is currently 13-2-0 in his professional career with the most number of wins in Brave Combat Federation with 6 wins in his 6 appearances retaliated.

## Major Indian MMA fighter withdraws due to injury

TDT | Manama

Brave Combat Federation will host the twentieth edition of the event on 22nd December in the Gachibowli stadium located in Hyderabad, India.

Abdul Muneer was among the biggest names in Indian MMA who had fought in main cards of a global mixed martial arts promotion. The featherweight fighter was injured during a wrestling session during his training for Brave 20.

Muneer upon medical checks was advised to take complete rest for three weeks which ended his dreams to compete in India.

Abdul Muneer who had competed in nine professional bouts winning six of them was set to face Ali Qaisi from Jordan. Brave Combat Federation will be finding a replacement to face Ali Qaisi in the coming days.

Abdul Muneer had visited the Kingdom of Bahrain multiple times and have a fan following in the GCC. The 2016 Indian Fighter of the Year is also a 7 times State Champion in Boxing.

Brave 20 is the biggest Mixed Mar-



Abdul Muneer

tial Arts event to take place in India and will be MMA event to take place in India with the highest global broadcast coverage. The main event of Brave 20 will be headlined by a clash between Sidney Wheeler from the USA and Leon Aliu from Italy.



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Organisers and participants of the cricket tournament part of the Indian School Mega Fair pose for a photo after the opening ceremony yesterday. On the first day, three teams competed in which Bombay Boyz and Fog Printers moved to the quarter finals. Fog Printers beat Ibn Al Hytham Islamic school for nine wickets in the first match of Group F. In the second match, the Bombay Boyz won by five wickets against Ibn Al Hytham Islamic school. In the third match in Group E, the Bombay Boyz defeated the Fog Printers by 10 wickets.

# Ronaldo challenges Messi

Ronaldo suggests Messi 'maybe needs more' and sends invite to join him in Serie A

● **The Juventus superstar would be open to the idea of a long-running rivalry with a Barcelona talisman being rekindled in the Italian top-flight**

AFP | Milan

Cristiano Ronaldo has urged long-time rival Lionel Messi to be more like him and push his limits by challenging himself in another league than Spain.

"I'd like him to come to Italy one day. I hope he accepts the challenge like me, but if he's happy there then I respect that," Ronaldo told the Italian press yesterday.

The two strikers have been rivals for the past decade winning five Ballon d'Or trophies each before their domination was broken by World Cup runner-up Luka Modric last week.

Asked if he missed the 31-year-old Argentinian, who has spent his entire senior career at Barcelona, Ronaldo replied: "No, maybe it's him who misses me ...

"I've played in England, Spain, Italy, Portugal and for my national team, while he's still in Spain.

"Maybe he needs me more... For me, life is a challenge, I like it and I like to make people happy.

"He's a fantastic player and a good guy, but I don't miss anything here. This is my new life

and I'm happy.

"I left my comfort zone and took on this challenge here in Turin, everything has gone well, I've proven I'm still an incredible player," said Ronaldo.

Ronaldo joined Juventus for 100 million euros (\$114 million) last summer as the Turin giants bid to lift the Champions League trophy after two runners-up finishes in the past four seasons.

To mark his 150 days in Italy he gave interviews yesterday to three leading sports dailies: La Gazzetta dello Sport, Corriere dello Sport and Tuttosport.

"I had different options. I won't say which but I had them. Juventus is a solid club. It has a long history," he said of his decision.

"I knew the atmosphere in the stadium. I'd played several times in Italy. I like the city, the people and the club. I knew it could work.

"I couldn't be 100 percent sure I was joining the best club in the world. After nine years at Real Madrid it was difficult to compare.

"Now I'm 100 percent sure it was the right option."

**'Not an obsession'**

Ronaldo has scored 11 goals this season, bringing his career total to 584.

Finishing second in Ballon d'Or voting to Modric, said Ronaldo, just motivates him even more.

"Of course I'm disappointed, but life goes on and I will con-

”  
I've played in England, Spain, Italy, Portugal and for my national team, while he's still in Spain. Maybe he needs me more...

CRISTIANO RONALDO

tinue to work hard," said the 33-year-old.

"On the pitch I've done everything to win the Ballon d'Or, numbers do not lie, but I'm no less happy if I do not win, I have wonderful friends and a family, I play in one of the best clubs.

"Congratulations to Modric, who has earned the award, but next year we will meet again and I will do everything to win the prize again.

"Do you think I'm going home and crying?"

Juventus play Young Boys in their final Champions League group game in Switzerland on Wednesday, having already booked their place in the knockout rounds.

And Ronaldo is hoping his experience of winning the trophy five times can serve his new team.

"The Champions League cannot be an obsession, you have to think about it calmly," he warned.

Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi



**Former Man Utd star Park offers to quit Korea youth role**

AFP | Seoul,

Former Manchester United star midfielder Park Ji-sung has offered to step down from his youth administrative role at South Korea's football association, officials said yesterday.

Park, who also played for Dutch giants PSV Eindhoven, was the biggest name to emerge from South Korean football before Tottenham striker Son Heung-min.

The 37-year-old has pursued a career in football administration since retiring from playing in 2014, and became head of the Korea Football Association's youth strategy department last year.

But he has submitted his resignation, an official told AFP, adding that the offer was being considered.

**Benitez says VAR cannot come soon enough**

Reuters | London

Newcastle manager Rafa Benitez was furious with two refereeing decisions as his team suffered a stoppage-time home defeat by Wolverhampton Wanderers in the Premier League on Sunday.

Referee Mike Dean ignored an apparent elbow in the face suffered by Ayoze Perez that could have been a penalty and a possible red card.

Earlier he sent off Newcastle's DeAndre Yedlin for preventing a clear goalscoring opportunity but Benitez claimed that Jamaal Lascelles was close enough to have intercepted.

"It was key to the game, the red card and the elbow on Ayoze Perez," Benitez told the BBC.

"We need VAR right now. In this game it would have changed everything. How can you explain those decisions to our fans?"

**Struggling Villarreal sack coach Calleja**

AFP | Madrid

Javier Calleja has been sacked as coach by struggling Villarreal after winning just three matches this season, the Spanish Liga club announced yesterday.

The 'Yellow Submarine' lost 3-2 at home to Celta Vigo at the weekend and now sit one place and three points above the relegation zone.

However, they are top of their Europa League group and will qualify for the next stage if they draw at home against Spartak Moscow on Thursday.

"Villarreal CF has decided to relieve Javi Calleja of his duties as first-team manager," said a statement on the official website.

## Zlatan sticking with LA Galaxy, AC Milan 'evaluate' Fabregas

Zlatan Ibrahimovic

AFP | Milan

Zlatan Ibrahimovic will not be leaving LA Galaxy to return to AC Milan, the Italian club's sporting director Leonardo said on Sunday, although they are studying the possibility of signing Chelsea midfielder Cesc Fabregas.

"Ibrahimovic will not return to Milan," Leonardo told Sky Sport Italia. "He gave his word to the LA Galaxy that he would renew his contract. We thought about his return and he thought about it too, but he's keeping his word and will remain in MLS.

"He always said from the start that if the LA Galaxy satisfied his conditions, then he would remain. They are

doing that and he will stay there.

"It would have been a marvellous story and a strong signal, but it will not be possible."

Ibrahimovic played for AC Milan from 2010 to 2012, winning a Serie A title with the club, before moving to Paris Saint-Germain and then Manchester United.

The 37-year-old joined LA Galaxy this season and has a contract through the 2019 season with the Major League Soccer side.

He was recently named the league's Newcomer of the Year, defeating record England goalscorer Wayne Rooney among others for the award.

Leonardo said Milan were "evaluating the conditions" to sign 31-year-old Spaniard Fabregas, a former Arsenal and Barcelona player.

"Unfortunately, with the Financial Fair Play issue it has become a puzzle and a difficult one to work out.

## Lukaku confident he is over post-World Cup slump

AFP | London

Romelu Lukaku believes he has finally emerged from his post-World Cup slump, with the Manchester United striker revealing he had to shed muscle to adapt to the demands of the Premier League.

After a promising first season at Old Trafford the 25-year-old has struggled to make an impact in front of

having ended his 12-match goalless streak for United at Southampton last weekend and netted at Old Trafford for the first time since March in Saturday's 4-1 win against Fulham.

The Belgium striker said he did not allow the external scrutiny to get him down.

"I think I just need to keep working hard," he said. "Me and the manager had good conversations in the last couple of days, where really he told me what he wanted from me.

"And I know from my side I have to do better and I just keep looking forward and improving, trying to add into my game and help the team to win."

Lukaku said he had not been playing with enough intensity and aggression and had also cut down on his gym work after bulking up during the summer.

"(I added) a little bit of muscle, yeah," he said. "It was at the World Cup. I just felt great and I think I played great over there, and then when I came back it is a different type of style.

"When you are in the Premier League, I cannot play with the same amount of muscle as international football here in the Prem. That was something that when I came back I knew straightaway 'nah, nah, I cannot play in this style like this'.

Romelu Lukaku



## PFA backs Sterling after alleged racist abuse

AFP | London

The Professional Footballers' Association said yesterday it stood "shoulder to shoulder" with Raheem Sterling after the Manchester City player suffered alleged racial abuse during his side's defeat against Chelsea.

Chelsea and the police are investigating the incident at Stamford Bridge on Saturday, which was highlighted on social media.

In an Instagram post on Sunday, Sterling accused British newspapers of helping to "fuel racism" with the way they portray young black footballers.

Simone Pound, PFA head of equality and diversity, said: "Football is a microcosm of society and incidents such as this highlight the current political climate.

"Raheem has made a stand by speaking out and we stand shoulder to shoulder with him against the discrimination of which he speaks."



Raheem Sterling

# India end Australia drought

India beat Australia by 31 runs at Adelaide Oval to take 1-0 series lead

● **Bumrah stars but Australia's tail makes India sweat for famous victory**

● **Australia were bowled out for 291 runs in their second innings**

AFP | Adelaide, Australia

India won their first Test on Australian soil in a decade yesterday, bowling out the home side in a nail-biting finale to clinch the opening match and raise hopes of their first ever series victory Down Under.

Wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant pouched a world record-equaling 11 catches for the match as India, after setting an improbable target of 323, finally dismissed Australia to win by 31 runs on day five at Adelaide Oval.

Australia, attempting what would have been a record chase at the ground, gallantly battled to 291 before Josh Hazlewood became the last man to fall to Ravichandran Ashwin, who finished with 3-92. Shaun Marsh made 62 and Tim Paine 41.

It was a huge breakthrough for captain Virat Kohli's men, who went 1-0 up with three Tests to go after becoming first Indian team to win the opening match of a Test series in Australia.

Pant took the plaudits after matching the record of 11 catches



India's wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant (R) celebrates with teammates the dismissal of Australia's batsman Mitchell Starc

es in a Test held by England's Jack Russell and South Africa's AB de Villiers.

India's last Test success in Australia was at the WACA Ground in Perth in 2008, and the previous one in Adelaide was 2003. They have now won just six times in Australia in more than 70 years.

But with the home team missing banned batsmen Steve Smith and David Warner, Kohli and his team sensed ahead of the tour that this could be their opportunity to make history by winning the series.

They now take the momentum



**Indian wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant equalled the world record held by Jack Russell and AB de Villiers of taking 11 catches in a Test match**

into the second Test in Perth starting Friday, with Melbourne and Sydney to follow.

"The odds were stacked against them. They fought really well but we executed our plans well and got that last wicket which we were intending to get," said Kohli.

"I'm super-proud of the bowlers, to have four bowlers and take 20 wickets is a great achievement and something that we haven't done in the past.

"It shows us that if the batsmen step up regularly, we will be gunning for a win in every Test match."

## 'Shattering'

Paine, who fell to a rash shot after lunch, said the defeat was "shattering" but he was proud of the way the team took it to the wire.

"We thought we could win, no doubt about that. We saw how the pitch is playing and told ourselves we are going to dig deep, but unfortunately, myself, Travis (Head) and Shaun couldn't bat long as long as we should have."

Australia resumed the final day needing another 219 for victory with four wickets down, but lost their last two specialist batsmen before lunch, shifting the odds heavily in India's favour.

Marsh and Head had started cautiously, grinding out 11 runs in the opening seven overs before seamer Ishant Sharma struck with the score on 115, bowling a bouncer that caught Head's bat as he tried to fend it off and Ajinkya Rahane took the catch at gully.

Paine joined Marsh and they upped the ante, capitalising on some loose balls from Shami to chip away steadily and close the gap.

Marsh brought up a valuable 50 -- his 10th in Tests -- with a boundary from a pull shot off spinner Ashwin.

It was a much-needed knock for the left-hander, who was on a run of six consecutive single-figure Test scores, although he has been in scintillating form in domestic cricket.

But Marsh didn't last much longer with Jasprit Bumrah getting the big breakthrough as he

India 1st innings 250 (Pujara 123; Hazlewood 3-52)	
Australia 1st innings 235 (Head 72; Bumrah 3-47, Ashwin 3-57)	
India 2nd innings 307 (Pujara 71, Rahane 70; Lyon 6-122, Starc 3-40)	
Australia 2nd innings (overnight 104-4)	
A. Finch c Pant b Ashwin	11
M. Harris c Pant b Shami	26
U. Khawaja c Sharma b Ashwin	8
S. Marsh c Pant b Bumrah	60
P. Handscomb c Pujara b Shami	14
T. Head c Rahane b Sharma	14
T. Paine c Pant b Bumrah	41
P. Cummins c Kohli b Bumrah	28
M. Starc c Pant b Shami	28
N. Lyon not out	38
J. Hazlewood c Rahul b Ashwin	13
Extras (lb6, b1, nb3)	10
Total: (10 wickets, 119.5 overs)	291
Bowling: Sharma 19-4-48-1, Bumrah 24-8-68-3, Ashwin 52.5-13-92-3, Shami 20-4-65-3 (3nb), Vijay 4-0-11-0	
Result: India win by 31 runs	
Series: India lead four-match series 1-0	

pushed at a perfectly angled delivery, getting a faint edge to Pant behind the stumps.

By lunch Australia had fought to 186 for six, still needing a further 137 runs for victory, with Paine not out 40 and Pat Cummins on five.

But in the second over after they resumed Paine top-edged a pull shot from Bumrah and Pant easily took a catch.

Cummins, who survived two big reviews within four balls, with the technology both times going in his favour, showed gritty application with Mitchell Starc in a 41-run eighth wicket stand.

## Retiring an option as Robben, 34, confirms imminent Bayern exit

AFP | Berlin

Arjen Robben says he may retire in June after confirming he will quit Bayern Munich when his contract with the defending Bundesliga champions expires.

Robben, who turns 35 in January, con-

firmed in yesterday's edition of magazine Kicker that he will quit the Bavarian giants at the end of the season: "that's a fact".

"Of course it's a big step, which you don't just make in one day.

"I thought about it a lot and it feels good that it's now out, also for the fans and the club.

"It was the right point in time."

Having missed the last two games with a thigh injury, Robben could make his return when Bayern face Ajax away in the Champions League on Wednesday. Both teams are through to the last 16 and Bayern need only a point in Amsterdam to win Group E.

Robben also missed Saturday's 3-0 league win at home to Nuremberg

Bayern third and nine points behind Bundesliga leaders Borussia Dortmund.

Bayern's senior bosses are planning a squad clear-out for next season and Robben says now is the right time to go, despite two stunning goals in the 5-1 thrashing of Benfica a fortnight ago.

"The game against Benfica was a nice confirmation that I can play at the highest level," he added.

"On the other side, the club wants to change the face of the team and I want to prepare my future.

"I am simply happy and grateful that there is clarity for both parties."

However, Robben says he currently has no plans past the end of the season.

"That's not entirely clear, perhaps I will stop playing - it's about waiting and seeing what possibilities there are," he said.

"If offers come in, I'll really consider them 100 percent and if it's something nice, I'll play on, but if no ideal offers come, then that could be it.

"I have three children and they also must be happy, so it's not just about offers from China or places in the desert.

"The family plays a very important role in every decision of mine."

After spells at Chelsea and Real Madrid, Robben joined Bayern in 2009 and the highlight of nearly a decade with the Bavarian giants was his winning goal in the 2013 Champions League final at Wembley to seal a 2-1 victory over Borussia Dortmund.

The fleet-footed, injury-prone Dutch veteran, named Bundesliga player of the year after his first season in Germany in 2009/10, has won 19 titles so far with Bayern and collected his seventh German league title last May.

## Klopp 'not one second worried' about Salah's early season form

AFP | London

Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp says he was not worried for "one second" about Mohamed Salah's form this season after his relatively sluggish start.

The Egypt forward made it 10 Premier League goals for the campaign with his hat-trick in Saturday's 4-0 win at Bournemouth that sent Liverpool top of the league.

The Reds now boast the league's only unbeaten record after champions Manchester City lost 2-0 at Chelsea.

Salah's dislocated shoulder in the Champions League final defeat to Real Madrid in May spoiled his World Cup, but Klopp is adamant he never doubted the 26-year-old.

"I was not one second worried (about Salah). I don't know exactly what people wrote, I have no clue about that," said Klopp.

"But we have to develop always, and to confirm and to improve again on a 41-goal season (Salah actually scored 44 goals last season). Everybody would struggle a little, because how can you improve on that?"

"If you score 10 goals in the first five games everyone will

**"I was not one second worried (about Salah). I don't know exactly what people wrote, I have no clue about that"**

JURGEN KLOPP

say 'yeah it's going to happen again'. And then if you ended up with 39 people would say 'yeah but it's not 41'.

"And we all have to learn to deal with it, and him of course as well. That's how it is."

Liverpool must beat Napoli 1-0 or by a margin of two goals at Anfield on Tuesday to guarantee reaching the Champions League's last 16, with Klopp calling on his players to prove their true class and for vocal backing from the fans.

"We were not good at Napoli so first of all we would like to show we are better than that," he said. "So we also have to call again on Anfield, and they should help us because that's a massive game, a really massive game."



Arjen Robben



Mohamed Salah